

U.S.S.N. 08/398,555

Filed: March 3, 1995

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

In the claims

14. (previously amended) The method of claim 33

wherein the attachment agent is selected from the group consisting of cyanogen bromide, succinimide, aldehyde, tosyl chloride, avidin-biotin, epoxide, maleimide, and carbodiimide.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the composition is administered by injection, infusion, or implantation.

16. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the composition is administered by implantation of the composition and wherein the substrate is shaped to match a desired tissue shape.

17. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the substrate is biodegradable.

32. (previously amended) The method of claim 34 wherein the attachment agent is selected from the group consisting of cyanogen bromide, succinimide, aldehyde, tosyl chloride, avidin-biotin, epoxide, maleimide, and carbodiimide.

33. (currently amended) (previously added) A method for growing eukaryotic cells

comprising

bringing into contact the cells with a composition comprising

a biocompatible solid substrate,

biocompatible polymeric tethers, and

growth effector molecules,

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wherein one end of each tether is covalently linked to the substrate and one end is covalently linked to an growth effector molecule so that the growth effector molecule cannot be internalized by cells attached to the substrate;

wherein the growth effector molecules are attached to the substrate in a concentration effective to enhance the rate of target cell growth without internalization of the molecules; and

wherein the tether is covalently linked to the substrate and to the growth effector molecule by the same attachment agents, maintaining the cells in contact with the composition under conditions and for a time sufficient to cause the cells to grow.

34. (currently amended) (previously added) A method of testing a compound for an effect on tissue comprising

bringing into contact the compound to be tested and a composition comprising
a biocompatible solid substrate,
biocompatible polymeric tethers,
growth effector molecules, and
growing cells,

wherein one end of each tether is covalently linked to the substrate and one end is covalently linked to an growth effector molecule so that the growth effector molecule cannot be internalized by cells attached to the substrate;

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wherein the growth effector molecules are attached to the substrate in a concentration effective to enhance the rate of target cell growth without internalization of the molecules;

wherein the tether is covalently linked to the substrate and to the growth effector molecule by the same attachment agents; and

wherein the growing cells are bound to the growth effector molecules; incubating the compound and the composition under conditions promoting cell growth;

and

observing the cells for any effect not observed in cells not brought into contact with the composition.